TION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Out of the seven State Capitals of North-Eastern region, at present, only Guwahati and Imphal are directly connected by Indian Airlines with Delhi. Convenient connections have, however, been provided by Indian Airlines over Calcutta for the passengers desirous of travelling between Agartala and Delhi. The runways at Shilong, Itanagar, Kohima and Aizwal, at present, are not suitable for operation by aircraft type available in the fleet of Indian Airlines. However, private operators are being encouraged to add more stations in their network including these stations.

Disinvestment of the equity capital in AI and IA

2422. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to disinvest the equity capital in Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of equity capital proposed to be disinvested;

(d) whether any plan has been drawn up for the expansion of Air India and Indian Airlines in the context of disinvestment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (e) Air India Limited figures in the list of 40 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) referred by the Government to the Disinvestment Commission for drawing up a comprehensive and long term disinvestment programme for these PSEs.

At present, there is no proposal to disinvest the equity capital in Indian Airlines.

मध्य प्रदेश में सिंगरौलिया हवाई-पट्टी का समतलीकरण किया जाना और उसके चारों ओर बाड़ (फेंसिंग) लगाया जाना

2423. **श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जिला सीधी (मध्य प्रदेश के वैढन (सिंगरौली) में सिंगरौलिया हवाई पट्टी हेतु भूमि के समतलीकरण और बाड़ लगाने का कार्य पूरा कर लिया गया है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इंडियन एयरलाइन्स, एयर इंडिया और भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण से स्वीकृति प्राप्त कर लेने के बाद भी इस हवाई पट्टी का निर्माण कार्य पूरा नहीं किया गया है; और

(ग) शीघ्र विमान-सेवा आरम्भ करने हेतु उपर्युक्त विषय के संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० इब्राहीम): (क) से (ग) सिंगरौलिया हवाई पट्टी मध्य प्रदेश राज्य सरकार की है। भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकारण की इस हवाई पट्टी के विकास की कोई योजनाएं नहीं हैं।

Installation of Superior Quality Transponders at Indian Airports

2424. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the installation of superior quality transponders could have averted the recent collision between a Saudi Arab Airways plane and a Kazhakistan plane resulting in heavy loss of lives;

(b) if so, the reasons for the non-installation of such transponders at Indian Airports; and

(c) other measures proposed to avert tragedies of such nature in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) Reasons for this accident are being investigated by a